

# "It's dangerous," say the "A" Group END CIVIL DEFENCE IN LONDON

## Campaign begins in Borough of Islington

By MARTIN JACKSON

WHEN the first survivors went back to atom shattered Hiroshima, they found the charred remains of a giant eucalyptus tree that had stood in the heart of the city for centuries.

The centre of the trunk had withstood the blast and fire from the bomb, and from it the city fathers decided to make simple Christian crosses as a symbol to remind men of the great sin committed to their city.

And those crosses are partly responsible for a campaign that has just begun in North London to end CD. For Shinzo Hamai, Mayor of Hiroshima came to London soon after the war with two of the crosses. One he gave to the Lord Mayor of London, the other to businessman Michael L. Howard.

When the H-bomb experiments were held in the Pacific, Michael Howard remembered those Hiroshima crosses and decided it was about time something was done. And for three weeks he and his friends marched around the Eros Statue in Piccadilly Circus with posters as a protest against the bomb.

### WHO KNOWS THE FACTS?

Almost fifty people joined them, most of them passersby in the street. Among them was an American serviceman on leave from Germany. One evening Dr. Donald Soper, pacifist head of the Methodist Church, joined them on the march.

When the poster parade concluded, members of the group asked themselves what next?

Their answer came with Coventry City Council's decision to disband their local CD Committee.

What was the true situation of Civil Defence in the H-bomb era? Nobody seemed to know, so members of the group having put down their posters visited London's local CD offices and questioned them on the bomb.

The answers were appalling. Local officials frankly admitted that hundreds of thousands would have to be "written off."

There was the "fringe complex." "We can save those on the fringe" said CD officers "the others... well..."

### ILLUSION OF SECURITY

It was apparent that the Coventry stand was the correct one. As Michael Howard says:

"The real danger in Civil Defence lies in the illusion of security which it tries to foster, and in its acceptance of hydrogen bombs as a method of settling disputes. In consequence of this illusion and this acceptance, Civil Defence stands as a barrier, not between ourselves and an enemy, but between ourselves and a constructive approach to the problem of how the peoples of the world are to live together in the atomic age, through reconciliation of their differences."

"Civil Defence induces people to accept the idea that the only answers to the H-bomb are bigger and better bombs and deeper and longer shelters."

For the first London borough to follow Coventry's lead, the group picked Islington. And to devote himself to the campaign, Michael Howard has resigned his positions from the National Executive and as London Regional Chairman of the Crusade for World Government.

All this week open-air meetings and poster parades have been held in Islington. Local

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## A BETTER TIME FOR THEM?



## Dr Soper's year as president ends TO SPEAK IN LONDON

WITH the Methodist Conference being held in London next week, Dr. Donald Soper's year as Conference President comes to an end and with it an outstanding chapter in the peace witness of the Methodist Church.

The man who has always stressed the importance of "getting out into the streets and meeting the people," has not let the burden of presidency prevent him practising what he preaches.

He has been in the forefront of the H-bomb campaign, and has seldom failed to mention the subject at meetings during his tours in the provinces.

In Hull he told a big meeting, which

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Sir Winston Churchill said at a Press Conference this week in the United States that he "had a sort of feeling" that the Soviet people should have a better time. They wanted new houses, an improved standard of living and more fun in their lives.

He was sure he said, that the Soviet people would gain more by peaceful development than by pressing to a point of hostilities.

This picture shows a little boy being fitted with a new coat in one of Moscow's department stores. The increase in consumer goods which has come about in recent months has made such scenes as this more frequent.

It is part of the general modification of Soviet life which, if allowed to continue, may well have profound effects on both the internal and external policies of that country.

Photo: Soviet Weekly.

## THE SCHOOLBOY, THE SOLDIER AND THE OLD-AGE-PENSIONER They are all doing their bit in the H-bomb campaign

FROM all over Britain reports are pouring into Peace News of action being taken by individuals and groups to make known the widespread opposition to H-bomb warfare and to present constructive alternatives:

Tens of thousands of leaflets have been despatched from Peace News office and from the headquarters of the pacifist organisations. The Peace Pledge Union are reprinting some of the H-bomb posters for which there has been a big demand.

The following are among many encouraging examples of individual and group initiative.

### Demonstration at Woolwich Arsenal tomorrow

AN open-air meeting "The H-bomb and you" will be held outside Woolwich Arsenal, tomorrow, Saturday. The Non-Violent Resistance Group, the Eltham Peace Pledge Union and the Pacifist Youth Action Group have joined forces in the following programme:

2 p.m.—Poster parade through Woolwich starts from Central Hall, Plumstead High St. (Plumstead SR station.)

3 p.m.—Open-air meeting at Arsenal Gates (Warren Lane) addressed by Rev. Jeans Courtney, of Plumstead; Stuart Morris, General Secretary of the Peace Pledge Union; and Rev. A. D. Belden.

5 p.m.—Peace Exhibition, bookstall and buffet open in Plumstead Central Hall.

7 p.m.—"Any Questions" meeting in Plumstead Central Hall. Question Master Jack Stevens (Woolwich Quaker); Rev. Jeans Courtney, Stuart Morris, and others.

Eight thousand leaflets have been distributed from door to door in Woolwich which say that the protest is being made "because we cannot remain silent when Britain is preparing to use H-bombs."

Volunteers for the poster parade will be welcome.

### Off to camp with H-bomb leaflets

A conscientious objector serving in the non-combatant corps of the Army has ordered a large supply of leaflets to distribute when he is called up for his fortnight annual camp.

In Cockermouth, not far from Britain's large atomic explosive plants, a reader who finds Peace News more inspiring than ever has passed on copies to neighbours—and to friends in the USA.

### Arthritis won't stop him

In Eastbourne, H. M. Young, a reader of the paper since it was first published has not let arthritis stop him from taking a part in the campaign.

He has ordered extra copies of Peace News to pass on to strangers and sent a £1 to the Peace News fund "with best wishes for success in the fight for peace."

### One schoolboy did it

A fifteen-year-old Yorkshire schoolboy has secured signatures to the H-bomb petition from more than half the staff of his grammar school, and effectively led a protest against military propaganda in the school.

On the occasion of a visit to the school by an army officer, the boy told his form master

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## It's a moral problem—G. Thomas, MP

By OLWEN BATTERSBY

"I BELIEVE myself that somebody has got to give a lead to the world," said Mr. George Thomas, MP, addressing a meeting on "The H-bomb and Education" organised by the H-bomb National Campaign Committee in London last week.

"I would like to see this country giving the lead, and saying 'We will not make it.'" He felt there was every indication that Russia and America were frightened of the power they possessed and would follow such a lead.

"The reason for starting this campaign was that something new had come into our life. This was not merely a development of conventional military weapons to which we had become accustomed. We had entered a new era altogether."

A Quaker, Alfred Tucker, who had just returned from Japan, had said that there were still—nine years after the dropping of the atomic bomb—men in Hiroshima whose hair fell out, whose teeth fell out, and who suffered from internal disorders leading to premature death as a result of the Hiroshima explosion.

Yet the H-bomb was 641 times as devastating as that atomic bomb, while the Cobalt Bomb was four times as deadly as the H-bomb.

Surely we had now climbed the scientific Everest and it was time to cry halt.

Yet horror propaganda would never put an end to war. This was a moral problem. The H-bomb sprang from insecurity, fear and hostility, and it encouraged and multiplied the very evils from which it sprang.

Some thought the H-bomb petition did not go far enough. He was one of them. But by drafting the petition in the words of Mr. Attlee, against which nobody had dared to vote, they hoped to get the maximum possible expression of that revulsion which the people felt to the use of this weapon.

Jean Ingram, headmistress of a secondary school in South London, said: "Fifty per cent of this country's expendable income, £1,600 million, goes on defence, £286 million on education."

### Prof. Lonsdale to broadcast

The postponed broadcast by Professor Kathleen Lonsdale on "Christian Pacifism and the H-bomb" is scheduled for Monday, July 5 at 9.50 p.m. on the BBC's Third Programme.

Professor Lonsdale, who edited the report of the Quaker Mission to Moscow, has recently become a sponsor of the Peace Pledge Union.







## Deportation threat to American C.O.

A WARRANT of arrest has been issued against Roy Butgereit, an American citizen by birth in that country, ordering him to appear in Mobile, Alabama, USA, on June 2, to defend himself against deportation proceedings. The action has been instigated under the McCarran Act by the Immigration Service.

One section of the McCarran Act provides for the loss of citizenship of anyone who leaves that country to evade military duty. The provision covers both naturalized citizens and persons born in the US. The Immigration Service alleges that Butgereit did leave the US to evade conscription.

On October 31, 1950, his eighteenth birthday, Roy Butgereit left New Orleans for the Quaker settlement in Costa Rica—the country without an army, without registering for the draft.

In April of 1952, President Truman issued a proclamation ordering all American citizens abroad of draft age who were not registered to register at American Consulates. In November of 1952 the American Consulate in Costa Rica notified Butgereit that he should come in and register. Butgereit complied before the end of the month.

In October of 1953 Butgereit returned to the USA because of his father's illness.

The Immigration Service now holds that Butgereit has expatriated himself under the McCarran Act and that, therefore, his return home constituted illegal entry into the US as an alien without a proper visa.

This case is a precedent, not only from the fact that a conscientious objector is involved but for the section of the McCarran Act taking away the citizenship of a person who is a citizen by birth. Constitutional questions are involved which can be settled only by the Federal Courts.

Because of the importance of this case from the points of law involved, as well as the importance of it for Butgereit as an individual, the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors has retained Oliver Stone of Washington as staff counsel for this case, and he will defend Butgereit. Stone is a specialist in immigration law. The Central Committee has agreed to underwrite the defence expenses.

## SUPREME COURT REVERSES BAN

The United States Supreme Court has overruled a ruling by a Fresno state judge that the conscientious objection of Arthur Jost of the Mennonite Central Committee, disqualifies him from United States citizenship.

## "A grand awakening"

IN THE USA, summer-schools, work-camps, institutes and seminars are now in full swing, attracting large groups of students and other young people.

"Friendly Crossways" the conference centre in Harvard, Massachusetts will house two "High School Institutes" on international relations organised by the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) from June 29 to July 6 and from August 20 to 27.

One of the young people who attended an institute last year, Eleanor Briggs, wrote afterwards:

"To me, the High School Institute of International Affairs was a grand awakening."

"On the bunk below me was a Catholic; nearby was a Jew; in the other bunk there was a Negro and Christian Scientist. We were all discussing Gandhi's method of non-violence. We were all united in aiming for one object—to bring about universal peace—and it gave me a feeling of security, infrequently felt outside the immediate home.

Programme material may be obtained from Winifred Barrett, AFSC, 130 Brattle Street, Cambridge 38, Mass. USA.

## WHY THEY DIED

"They came three thousand miles and died, To keep the past upon its throne..."

THESE words are written over the graves of British soldiers killed at the Battle of Concord in the war for American independence.

In a campaign for the prevention of any further American intervention in Indo-China a leaflet put out by the US Committee for a Sane Policy (Russell Johnson, Acting Secretary), concludes with this quotation and the question whether these words are also to be written over the graves of American soldiers in Indo-China.

## WORLD PEACE DAY, AUG 7

The International World Peace Day Committee appeals for the observance of Hiroshima Day, August 6, as a World Peace Day. Messages and other communications may be mailed to Alfred W. Parker, 609 Santa Ray Ave., Oakland 10, California, USA.

## FOR ONE BOMB AIMER

To train one bomb-aimer for the US Air Force requires 15,130 gallons of petrol, 100 bombs, 265 hours flying and 1,814 hours ground training—Fellowship, USA.

## PRINTING

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# YOUNG QUAKERS IN CHINA

## Great opportunity to strengthen friendship

From BERNARD CANTER  
Editor of The Friend

"WE hope that, by finding and showing friendship, our visit will contribute to world peace," said John Woods, the Young Quaker who is leading the British youth delegation in China, when the visitors were entertained by the All-China Federation of Democratic Youth in Peking on June 8.

Reports reaching London through the New China News Agency suggest that the twelve young people have received a very warm welcome. On their arrival at Peking Airport they were greeted by smartly dressed young Pioneers with bouquets, and Ou Tang-liang, a vice-chairman of the All-China Federation, made a speech to which John Woods replied.

At the formal reception, which took place on the following evening, John Woods is

reported as saying: "I thank you for your extraordinary welcome. There are four things about our trip which I believe we are all conscious of: adventure, privilege, responsibility and opportunity.

"Adventure, because we have travelled half across the world to see you, and for many of us it is our first trip by air. Now at last we are in beautiful Peking.

"We are privileged to represent the British organisations which chose us, and still more



John Woods, leader of the youth delegation to China.

## EDC: Are we right?

—Sir FRED MESSER, MP

SPEAKING against German rearmament at a conference at St. Pancras Town Hall recently, Sir Fred Messer, MP, said that once armed, Germany, cynical, and still abounding with powerful Nazi and neo-Fascist beliefs would assume an impetus of her own; or would alternatively become a powerful pawn in a game of chess likely to provoke conflict over a far wider range than that already existing.

The conception of the European Defence Community evolved from the belief that Russia is a danger, and that armed forces in Western Germany could take the first full impact of any blow that she, Russia, might deal.

But had we any right to rely on the assumption that Russia wants war?

Armed forces gathered on her doorstep could provoke her into fear and suspicion, and the aggressiveness of self-defence. But apart from that it would seem more realistic to believe that Russia herself did not want war. For war, with the latest atomic weapons, would destroy within the USSR itself all that it had striven over the last 30 years to build.

Supporting Sir Fred Messer, Ben Parkin, MP, stressed it was important to realise that there exists today a continuous campaign to get fallen Nazi leaders out of the Eastern zone of Germany into the Western.

The conference, which was convened by the Political Committee of the London Co-operative Society in association with the Union of Democratic Control was attended by 373 delegates from Trade Union branches, Labour Party organisations, Co-operatives, the Union of Democratic Control and other affiliated bodies.

## Quaker Scientists' Fellowship Launched

Professor Kathleen Lonsdale is among the ten scientists who last week announced in a letter to The Friend their decision to form a "Quaker Scientists Fellowship."

Discussion of the relationship between science and religion and of the special responsibilities, if any, of scientists in the modern world are expected to be among the aims of the group, although these have not yet been precisely defined.

Interested members of the Society of Friends are invited to write to Norman Clarke, 106 Olive Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, England.

## 45,000 US troops in Britain

There are about 45,000 United States military personnel at present in Britain—Government statement in the House of Commons.

## "No compromise"

In a letter which won him £50 in the Daily Herald's "Youth looks at Britain" contest, 18-year-old Barry Taylor, of Bradford, wrote:

"I am not an atheist, but cannot accept the Christian myth—partly, I think, because the Churches give so little impression of intense faith, in compromising—where Christianity admits no compromise—on pacifism, for example.

## East and West to meet in Oslo

It is hoped that there will be young people from the Soviet Union and the USA at an International Youth Gathering in Oslo from July 18 to July 25.

Sponsors of the gathering, which will take the form of a large holiday camp with the slogan "Through knowledge to friendship," include the Norwegian branch of the Service Civil International (International Voluntary Service for Peace).

Further information may be had from Internasjonalt Ungdomsstevne, Torggata 14 III, Oslo.

privileged to represent British youth. We feel responsible to be here, to see China as she really is, and on our return to Britain to tell our friends of what we have seen.

"Finally, this visit is a great opportunity. It is our opportunity to strengthen friendship and good will between China and Britain."

At a further reception at a Peking theatre on June 10, both John Woods and Mary Protheroe, the other Young Quaker in the delegation, spoke. "We come here," said Mary Protheroe, "as ambassadors of love from the young people of Britain, and we will go home as ambassadors of love from the young people of China. I know that our visit will strengthen the bonds of peace between our two countries."

## THE PEACE PLEDGE UNION AND HITLER

# The Times refuses to print a reply

THE TIMES has recently given space in its correspondence columns to a number of letters on Christian Pacifism arising out of a leading article on the subject. One of these letters came from Canon Lindsay Dewar, of Cheshunt. At the end of his letter, Canon Dewar writes:

"Pacifists may perhaps be reminded that their teaching is liable to have the very opposite effect to that which they desire; it may precipitate war. There is definite evidence that this is what happened in 1939 when the activities of the Peace Pledge Union influenced Hitler in thinking that in no circumstances would this country intervene in a European war."

On behalf of the Peace Pledge Union, Stuart Morris, the General Secretary, wrote a letter in reply challenging Canon Dewar to produce the "definite evidence" that the activities of the PPU precipitated World War II.

He has now received a reply from the Editor of The Times regretting that that newspaper could not make use of it in its correspondence columns.

In a further letter to the Editor of The Times, Stuart Morris says he had supposed that if an editor printed a letter which did

## Moral disarmament for children

ABOUT one-fourth of the 75 to 100 million copies of comic books sold each month are devoted to crime and horror, according to the US Senate Juvenile Delinquency Sub-committee.

The Churchman reports this incident at the committee's hearings:

When William Gaines, president of the Entertaining Comics Groups, defended a cover picture of a man with a bloody axe, holding up the head of a woman, Senator Kefauver asked Mr. Gaines whether or not he thought this cover was "in good taste."

"Yes, I do," Mr. Gaines replied. "I think it would be in bad taste if he were holding her head a little higher, so the neck would show with the blood dripping from it."

Senator Kefauver remonstrated quietly: "But you've got blood dripping from her mouth."

Mr. Gaines then trotted out a different kind of "red" issue. He declared that the "group most anxious to destroy the comics are the Communists."

Frederick Wertham MD, a psychiatrist who has devoted seven years to scientific investigation, the results of which he has embodied in a book called "Seduction of the Innocent" reaches the following conclusion:

"The most subtle and pervading effect of crime comics on children can be summarised in a single phrase; moral disarmament. It consists chiefly in a blunting of the finer feelings of conscience, of mercy, of sympathy for other people's suffering and of respect for women as women and not merely as sex objects to be banded about or as luxury prizes to be fought over."

IN just over a month now the second World Assembly of Churches will take place at Evanston, Illinois, USA.

Its theme will be—"Christ the Hope of the World."

Never perhaps in all history have men of religion met to consider matters so vital to the survival of their religion—and themselves.

There is every reason to believe that at Evanston the issues will be squarely put: either the Church has got to come to a frank and fearless renunciation of war, or there can be no future for her. Nor would there be any reason to be.

Prominent in encouraging the Assembly to face up to reality, will be the historic Peace Churches—Quakers, Mennonites, Brethren—and the Christian Pacifist movement of America. There will be meetings held alongside the main Assembly; there will be literature available; there will be private discussions without number.

In recognition of the great importance of this occasion and as a contribution to the campaign, Peace News will publish a special enlarged number devoted to the Assembly. This number, which will appear a week before the Assembly, can be helpful in preparing Christians everywhere, whether delegates or not, for the serious deliberations which Evanston will make at this time of crisis.

The cost of this special issue is, candidly, more than we can afford. But we believe it must be produced. If you are one of those who have felt the desire to be able to play some part in this great event, here is an opportunity. Donations towards the cost of this special issue will be most gratefully received.

TOM WARDLE.

Contributions since June 18: £88 14s. 3d.  
Total for 1954: £841 2s. 2d.

Please make cheques, etc., payable to Peace News Ltd., and address them to Vera Britain, Treasurer, Peace News, 3 Blackstock Rd., N.4.



refer unfairly to an organisation or an individual, he would feel it only right to permit some answer.

Of Canon Dewar's allegation, Stuart Morris writes:

"George Lansbury, the then president of the PPU, had obtained in 1938 from the head of every European Government, including Hitler, a promise to attend a conference and state the causes for which each would go to war, in the belief that it would then be possible to arrive at a solution of them, which war never can.

## Meeting with Chamberlain

"I was one of a group who met Neville Chamberlain at the time and heard him refuse to take the initiative, and I still believe that had that conference been called there would have been a reasonable chance of averting the war.

"But even if what Canon Dewar says about the possible effect of pacifism in precipitating war were true, the same applies to those who prepare for war. History shows, as Lord Grey stated, that great armaments lead to war.

"When there is an obvious risk in any policy, it is better to take the risks involved in following a policy which is based on the fundamental principle of Christian teaching, even if that should involve the modern equivalent of crucifixion."

## A European press survey

IN World War I, and the years immediately following the Union of Democratic Control produced a monthly, Foreign Affairs, which provided English readers with the means to keep themselves informed on trends of opinion throughout the world.

European Press, a new weekly survey of European political opinion, will fulfil something of this function, and although it is limited to Europe it has the great advantage of being a weekly, instead of a monthly, survey.

It is only to be obtained by subscription: £2 15s. per annum (£2 2s. for applications before July); 6 months for £1 10s.; from 20 Buckingham St., London, W.C.2.

## 'Thought-provoking document'

ATOMIC SCIENTISTS JOURNAL reviews the Toldas Peace Plan in its current issue. The reviewer, W. R. D. Manning, concludes:

"A Plan for Peace" is a thought-provoking document; it courageously argues a viewpoint which is unlikely to gain wide acceptance at the present time. It has, however, stimulated the present reviewer to re-examine his own attitude to the fundamental questions of how the nations of the world might live without strife, and it can be recommended in the expectation that it will have the same beneficial effect on others.

"A Plan for Peace" is obtainable from Toldas Group, 16 Harlech Rd., Blundell Sands, Liverpool 23.





## The Welfare of All

SINCE Mahatma Gandhi was so deeply concerned to help the hungry and debt-ridden peasants of India, it was natural that on his death his followers should found a fellowship called "Sarvodaya" (The Welfare of All).

The book which has now been published by the Navajivan Press\*, under this title, and which consists of extracts from Gandhi's writings plus some papers by Vinoba Bhave and others, gives a balanced picture of the social order for which the Mahatma strove and describes how it can be built.

Mr. Kumarappa's editing makes this a particularly lucid reference book, relevant in many respects to our problems.

K. R.

\*Obtainable from Housmans Bookshop, London, 5s.

## Puerto Rico's plight

THE death-rate from TB in Puerto Rico, American colonial territory, is 266.5 per 100,000 compared with 44.7 in the USA; 55 per cent. of rural families have less than one cup of milk per person daily—or none at all.

Roy Shuckman gives these facts in a pamphlet "Puerto Rican Neighbour" (Pendle Hill, 35 cents), in which he says of the Puerto Rican:

"His bitterness, frustration, despair—and hope, can be found in men of India, Africa, China, Afghanistan, Mexico and other countries."

# A physicist considers the H-bomb

By Dr. JOHN FREMLIN

I AM very pleased to have the opportunity to write something for Peace News on the problem of the hydrogen bomb. Although I am a nuclear physicist. I am concerned with what things *ought* to be done and only after that with which of these may be most expedient.

Many people see no moral difference between H-bombs and ordinary bombs or, for the matter of that, battle-axes.

I believe that it is morally worse to kill very large numbers than to kill very small numbers.

This is not because I think that morals can be reduced to a branch of arithmetic.

## CHEAP KILLING

It is because killing very large numbers can destroy the whole fabric of a civilisation so that for years, perhaps for decades, people die who need not have died, because the hospitals have gone; children starve who would have lived, because the agricultural fertiliser factories have gone; people grow up with narrow stunted lives, because the schools have been destroyed.

I think it morally worse to injure our children's future than our own present.

To my mind then, the importance of the hydrogen bomb is not that it kills people in an

unconventional way, but that it makes killing so extraordinarily cheap, that it becomes easy to do damage lasting well beyond the lives of those who do it.

I do not mean that I am worried about hereditary radioactive damage. Doubtless there would be some following a hydrogen-bomb war, though the possible extent is often exaggerated; but if we make a world in which even a good heredity cannot produce a good individual, poor heredity is less important.

Sooner or later we must learn how to deal with genetic disabilities anyway if we are to survive in a civilised state, and the diversion of money from such learning to the construction of bombs may be as bad from this point of view as their actual explosion.

## MORAL PROBLEM

Here in fact we see what I believe to be the really immediate moral problem of modern armaments. I think it is likely that a major war will not in fact occur. I am worried about it because I think it would be very bad

## Mr BIRCH and the NAPALM BOMB

AT Question Time in the House of Commons recently, Mr. Hale asked what Government policy was with regard to the use of napalm bombs by British troops in time of war; and what stocks of these bombs are held by British forces at present.

Mr. Birch (Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Defence): In the absence of any agreement prohibiting such weapons, Her Majesty's Government must reserve the right to use the napalm bomb. No stocks are held.

Mr. Hale: I am sure the Parliamentary Secretary will appreciate that we are glad to hear the second part of that statement, but has he seen the accounts of the use of these bombs on the civilian population in Korea? Has he seen that its principal use is for jellied petrol to attach itself so firmly to the skin that the skin becomes like crackling and that the victim is normally blinded and loses the use of his limbs? Can the hon. Gentleman apply the same considerations to this bomb as we apply at the moment to the use of gin traps for rabbits?

Mr. Birch: The results of all weapons of war are terrible.

rather than because I think it very probable.

But what is absolutely certain is that if we had put the thousands of millions of pounds which have gone on arms since the war into helping the agriculture and industry of the underdeveloped countries of the world, we should by now have saved at least ten million lives and founded a secure and wider future for hundreds of millions more.

We should think of the people that we have killed and are now killing, not only those that we might perhaps in the future be going to kill.

The same general position applies in detail to the case of atomic energy and the H-bomb. The positive danger of H-bombs may never develop, but the billions of kilowatt-hours and millions of man-years that have gone into their production, instead of into improving the world, can never be recovered.

## ATOMIC POWER

Within three years, we are told, Britain's first atomic power station should be delivering electric power to the grid. A second one of improved design is planned. No data are published to make an accurate estimate, but an atomic unit for a submarine has already operated in the USA and I am myself certain that with the war effort redirected our station could now have been running and at least twenty such stations could be running in the USA.

We could have helped India to build some experimental units suitable for her conditions and within fifteen years her vast, hungry population could be fed, with the help of tools and fertilisers from atomic-powered factories.

As her output rose we should find that by investing in life instead of in death we had not only helped the poor Indian but had provided ourselves with a growing and inexhaustible market, and secured our own future as well as his.

There is no danger from properly used atomic energy as some people fear. Atomic piles cannot be made to explode and, though care in design is needed to avoid risk of radiation damage, this is a problem of cost, not of difficulty.

In fact, the radioactivity produced may itself in the long run be as important as the power produced. We can already use it for sterilising food, curing and hardening plastics, to replace X-rays in research in almost all branches of science, and for the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

## BRITAIN'S OPPORTUNITY

Surely this country can give a lead from the dark paths towards the bright.

If we do not, how can we expect anyone else to do so?

And someone must, if the world is to have a reasonable future and we in Britain are to have a future at all.

## PPU RELIGION COMMISSION

Sufi Service

3.30 p.m. Sunday July 4

Studio, 29 Addison Ave., London W.11

(Near Holland Park Stn.)

Discourse by Miss L. Hayat Bouman

"Peoples and Peace"

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# THE COLONIAL CRISIS

By Francis Rona M.Sc. (Econ.)

## MR. OLIVER LYTTLETON

TON, before the election of 1951 and his appointment as Colonial Secretary, criticised the Labour Government's policy of "seizing the colonies' Sterling balances." In the Sunday Times (Oct. 14, 1951) he wrote:

"Britain is living on the dollar earnings of the colonies, who are prevented from freely converting their Sterling into either goods or dollars, and must willy-nilly run up their £-balances."

But Mr. Lyttelton has not changed Labour's policy of colonial plunder, by "freezing" the proceeds from those exports in London. The £454 m. which Britain owed her colonies in December, 1945, was swollen to over £900 m. when Labour went out of office in October, 1951. Mr. Lyttelton has added £300 m. since that date, and brought forth the following criticism from the Daily Express (Editorial, June 5, 1954):

"To her own colonies this country owes far more than she does to America. The total balances standing to the credit of the colonies in London today amount to £1,200 million.

"There is a further difference from the money owed to the Americans; the balances which are due to colonies are money lent by the poor to the rich.

"The colonies have a right to recall their claim to just treatment."

## NO WELFARE STATISTICS

What rights do these 70 million people enjoy, from whom we have forcibly borrowed over £1,200 million? How are they treated?

No facts about social conditions are disclosed in Colonial Office publications. The last report (Cmd. 9169, May, 1954) gives only half a page to wage conditions affecting millions of people and no statistical information on health, housing, illiteracy and social services.

Interest is concentrated on colonial trade, finance, capital development and—on pages 95-97—propaganda from Britain:

"Distribution continued of the weekly newsmagazine 'British News'...

"Intense colonial interest in the Coronation was reflected in an almost insatiable demand for pictorial and other material. At Dar-es-Salaam over 6,000 people visited the Information Department in three days before Coronation Day to obtain pictures of the Queen..."

How carefully the Colonial Office hides shameful facts regarding social conditions is apparent on looking at the United Nations' "Review of Conditions in Africa," UNESCO "Basic Facts and Figures" and some other UN publications.

The British public are not told, for instance, that in North Borneo 98% of the women are illiterate (Unesco, "Basic Facts," HM Stationery Office); while Brunei doubled oil exports between 1948 (2.6 m. tons) and 1952 (5 m.).

There is an "insatiable demand" for physicians and hospital beds in the colonies. In the rich cocoa-producing Gold Coast (exports, 1953: 240,000 tons) one physician has to look after 34,000 inhabitants, according to the UN "Statistical Yearbook, 1952" (p. 492). In Kenya, Nyasaland and other "trouble centres" conditions are worse.

There are only a few thousand hospital beds



## NO HOME AT THE END OF THE ROAD?

Possessing only what they carry, this Kikuyu family has arrived in the already overcrowded tribal reserve—and so have 120,000 other "evacuees" from Nairobi and the settled areas. Mau Mau and the local administration will make rival claims on their loyalty. Finding employment and somewhere to live will be difficult. Bewildered and fearful, hunger and privation face them.

for Africans in colonial Africa. Not for them the free health service of Britain. (Cf. UN "Statistical Yearbook, 1953," 513-515.)

The present out-of-date colonial policy, with exploitation and "taxation without representation," will result—if continued—in a clash similar to that which led to the loss of the American Colonies in 1776.

The colonial peoples do not benefit from economic "development," when the schemes favour the plantation and mining companies exploiting cheap labour. Such "development" destroys the tribal economy without improving social conditions.

Economic "progress" should mean the improvement of living standards and health conditions as well as equal opportunities for education to both Europeans and Africans. Unfortunately for the Africans, it too often means robbery of their land by white settlers, starvation wages and labour conditions which differ little, if at all, from "slavery."

The UN "Review of Economic Conditions in Africa," March, 1951, disclosed that miners in Tanganyika get 5s. to 7s. 6d. per week. Agricultural workers (partly indentured labour) "earn" 5s. to 7s. per week in Nyasaland, Uganda and Kenya.

The shame of "poll tax" on native population calls for an enquiry, but no question has been put in Parliament yet regarding labour conditions and taxation methods in colonies. It is a sad thing that many who are opposed to slavery are insensitive to untold human misery and neglect their duty to humanity and God.

What is the use of "development" for the native population if it depresses living stan-

## SOME EXPORT EARNINGS OF COLONIES

In £ million	1951	1952	1953
RUBBER	352	179	122
COPPER	60	79	90
COCOA	96	85	85
PETROLEUM products	68	70	74
TIN AND ORES	76	68	53

SOURCE: Colonial Survey, Cmd. 9169, p. 185.

NOTE: The colonies cover a large part of Britain's dollar deficit. The fall in commodity prices in 1952, however, reduced the dollar earnings and also the income of the population in colonies, owing to dependence on forced exports. Rubber prices, for example, fell from 5s. to 1s. 8d. in the past years.

dards and displaces tribal economy? Can the colonial peoples trust the Colonial Office?

Mr. Lyttelton said in Birmingham (Financial Times, May 7) that "it was desirable to build up a feeling that the foreign capital and the local population were engaged in partnership."

In Malaya and elsewhere colonial exploitation precludes "partnership." The balance sheet of Dunlop Rubber Co., for example, shows a net profit of £4,068,000 (Fin. Times, June 15, 1954) on a share capital of £17,254,000. The Company also possesses reserves valued £37,583,000 (undistributed profits).

The "junior partners" are on the verge of starvation.

## GUNS AND GALLOWES

In a courageous article, "Guns and gallows won't stop it" (Sunday Pictorial, November 22, 1953) Anthony Wedgwood Benn, MP, correctly pointed out that "bombs, guns and the big stick don't add up to a policy for the colonies." His conclusion is:

"The policy of 'getting tough' just has not worked. It has not ended Mau Mau in Kenya, it has not brought us nearer a solution in British Guiana. In Central Africa, I fear our troubles are only just beginning. While Britain's authority depends on British bayonets there can be no mutual confidence."

The British taxpayer is paying more for "security forces" in colonies than for colonial welfare. "Expenditure from Colonial Development and Welfare funds in 1953 totalled £14 m. approximately" (Cmd. 9169, p. 2). But in Kenya alone (Fin. Times, June 12, 1954) "the Mau Mau bill is now running at a (yearly) rate of from £12 to £14 m." Because Kenya's normal budget of £22 m. cannot meet this item, British taxpayers must provide the money.

Direct contribution to the Malayan war (Daily Telegraph, November 26, 1953) costs £6 m. and the expenses for other "trouble spots" (Uganda, Nyasaland, Br. Guiana, etc.) also reach millions. Less food and less social services means more soldiers and more guns, resulting in massacres reminiscent of the Spanish "conquistadores" in Mexico and Peru.

The Labour Party has not offered an alternative to Mr. Lyttelton's policy yet. Their statement, "Challenge to Britain," omitted the colonial crisis. Is Mr. James Griffiths' aim to "carry on" and be a "little Lyttelton"? Or will the next Labour Party Conference reject colonial oppression and exploitation?



# "Even Mr Morrison hadn't thought of that one," writes CYRIL HUGHES in— LABOUR LASHES OUT

FOR the first time since the days when the House of Commons contained one or two Socialists, the working people of Britain are having passionate voices raised on their behalf.

At last, the unofficial coalition has burst wide open. Labour MPs are in fighting mood; pairing is to cease, and every effort is to be made to harry the Government.

It is welcome news, and one naturally wonders what contemporary event of tremendous significance has occurred, what new attack on the hard-won liberties of the workers, what fresh menace to world peace, to cause the representatives of the people to roll up their sleeves and lash out at the Tories.

Is it the new war of aggression in Guatemala? Is it the latest increase in the cost of living which is decimating the Labour voters in marginal constituencies?

Is it the political persecution of Dr. Cort? Or the attempt to rearm Germany? Or the failure to halt the H-bomb experiments? Or the plight of the old age pensioners?

BUT, of course, you know as well as we do. No Labour MP would risk his reputation as a responsible citizen over such trivial matters as these.

The action of the Government which has stirred the Labour Party to righteous wrath is its refusal to grant at once the £500 increase in salary which the House recently voted itself.

This is class warfare at its starkest, and we should, in a sense, welcome it. For it gives our representatives the chance to show what they are made of.

Here is a cause worthy of their talents. For long years they have sat and fretted in quiet impotence while Parliament discussed dreary routine matters like poverty and war. Now they have found a topic on which they can really disagree with the Tories, and show us what kind of Socialists they are.



THAT the issue is an important one nobody can doubt.

The Tories were accused by one Labour MP of trying to prevent working men from entering Parliament, an accusation which is no doubt true, though the constituency Labour Parties already seem to be doing almost as well as the Tories in that respect.

However, it is clear that, once the rise is granted, we can expect a wholesale resignation from the Parliamentary Labour Party of the economists, barristers, journalists, dons and doctors, in order to leave the way clear for the railwaymen, dustmen, bus-drivers, dockers and miners who cannot afford to give up their wages to become MPs on the present £1,000 per annum.

But that is not the only benefit that will follow this increase.

In fact, the Labour MPs who are seeking the £500 are not really thinking of themselves at all.

MR. ANEURIN BEVAN, addressing a miner's gala at Mansfield, Notts, on June 26, said that the argument about MPs

salaries was really an argument about old-age pensions. He said:

"The Tory majority in the House of Commons know that if Members get a rise in salary it will be impossible to deny a rise in old-age pensions."

EVEN Mr. Morrison hadn't thought of that one.

If Mr. Bevan produces a few more arguments like that he will be well in the running for the leadership of the Labour Party, despite being suspected, in some quarters, of Socialism.

And if you wonder why the Labour Party could not have lost its temper and fought the Government tooth and nail over the issue of old-age pensions before asking for an increase in MPs salaries; if, indeed, you wonder why the Labour Party did not, when it was the Government, do something about providing a really adequate old-age pension then; you merely prove that you lack that snakelike subtlety of mind essential to a successful Labour politician.

NOT that the Labour Party, even at this crisis in human affairs, occupies itself exclusively with wage claims.

On the very day that Mr. Bevan was explaining to the Nottinghamshire miners how that £500 was going to find its way into the pockets of the old-age pensioners, Mr. Attlee came on the air and explained to the nation, very kindly and patiently, why it was that we had to rearm the Germans so soon after we had spent six years trying to disarm them.

And Mr. Morrison and Mr. Gaitskill, both speaking in Yorkshire, pointed out how important it was that we should not hate the Germans, and implied that you show your love for a nation by giving it, not flowers, but guns; thus proving that you think it as civilised as your own.

BUT these three were, of course, merely preaching Tory policy, like any good Labour MP; and they will insist as strongly as anyone else, when it comes to the point, that they should be paid an extra £500 per annum for doing it.

The revolution is on. Her Majesty's Opposition is at last determined to oppose, and the spirit of Keir Hardie is once more to be seen on the Labour benches; sitting with its head bowed, weeping.

## TALKING POINT

### What should be the function of Peace News?

I AM aware that the subject is not new, and that, whatever editors lack, it will never be advice on the vexed question of the balance to be effected between the presentation of articles dealing with our basic faith in all its manifold variations and that comment on current affairs called forth by a conviction of the value of applying that faith in judging the world's political trends.

I have been asked variously whether Peace News is edited from Africa, Russia or America. Such unwitting tribute to its lack of bias should not blind us to the fact that readers generally—even those who believe they are sustained by a mystic faith—are extraordinarily sensitive to the impact of events. Consequently, however coolly, logically, and objectively Peace News attempts to drive home such lessons as are to be learned from informed comment on world affairs that are dominated by politicians. I suspect that pacifism's simple fundamental argument and appeal is thereby lost.

I would urge that Peace News writers should ever have in mind that, as practised, politics is

## Letters to the Editor

### Aberdare by-election

I SHOULD like to see an Independent anti-militarist candidate contesting the forthcoming by-election in Aberdare where there can be no question of "letting in" the Tory since in 1951 Labour polled nearly 35,000 votes compared with the Tory's 6,810.

What a chance for an Anti-war candidate to put up some real opposition to militarism.

EDWARD CORBY.

139 Beverstone Rd.,  
Thornthorpe Heath.

### German rearmament

THE "impartial" BBC programme on German rearmament lasted 120 minutes. Exactly 24½ minutes were given to the views of those who opposed it. I know because I timed them.

This doesn't look like fair play to me. Commercial TV, with American and British big business in control, would be even more biased in favour of reaction.

FRANK ALLAUN.

7 Mornington Crescent,  
Manchester, 14.

### "Wages of Fear"

GWYNETH ANDERSON'S action is to be regretted, it tastes too much of censorship. Pacifists and other groups holding minority views protest rightly because they have no opportunity to present their point of view on the commercial screen. In the commercialised arts there is a need for greater freedom; in the cinema, particularly there is too much political and economic control over producers and directors in the choice of subject.

Incidentally prospective patrons are warned, by the publicity machine, that the film is frightening.

FRED DEUTSCH.

290 Beverley Rd., Hull.

### Strengthening self-discipline

FREDERICK G. FORDER deserves a bouquet for a piece of very excellent organisation on "Derby's Day." The people of Derby may or may not have been impressed by the leaflet distribution, the two poster parades or even the out-door evening meeting. I certainly was cheered by the willingness of fellow pacifists, many strangers to each other, to work together on jobs which are rather in the nature of an ordeal.

Mostly we English are too reserved by nature to enjoy poster parading or Peace News selling

By SAM WALSH

but I am sure it is necessary for all of us to be ready to commit ourselves to pacifism in every possible way so that our faith in non-violence should become significant to those who have not considered an alternative to war.

Poster parades and Peace News selling are not the only means of expression, of course, but voluntarily to suffer the embarrassment of walking behind a "Co-operation not Killing" poster crying "Peace News—only fourpence!" does much to strengthen that capacity for self-discipline so necessary to those taking part, or willing to take part, in a campaign of non-violent resistance.

### Peace-making methods

WE who love peace want to work for it, but are our methods the best? Are statesmen going to be coerced, convinced, or converted by petitions, mass meetings, resolutions, and the like? May they not conceivably react against it.

I suggest that we work for the 101 constructive reforms at present somewhat neglected, and perchance our children may wake up one day to find there just is not time to think of war—the nations will be too busy co-operating to avert world famine, over population, and natural disasters, while at the same time trying to spread education and social advancement in the Far East.

OSWALD DEAKIN.

47 Heol Gwrysydd, Penlan, Swansea.

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Send YOUR pledge to

P.P.U. HEADQUARTERS

Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh Street, W.C.1

As this is a free service, we reserve the right to select notices for publication. We nevertheless desire to make it as complete a service as we reasonably can, and therefore urge organisers of events to:

### Saturday, July 3

HASTINGS: 3.15 p.m.; 5 Amhurst Gdns. Garden Mtg. (if wet indoors). Michael Tippett. Chair: Minnie Pallister. Picnic tea in Orchard. Bring and buy stall. PPU.

HULL: 3 p.m.; 6 Bond St. Quarterly Mtg. Yorkshire Area PPU.

LOUGHTON: 3 p.m.; Family Raffle, Epping Forest. Meet "Crown", Loughton. N.E. Council For.

SHEFFIELD: 3.30 p.m.; "Rydal" South-ling Pk. Rd. Area Mtg. Rev. Donald Pipe, of Nottingham. For.

WOOLWICH: Objective—Peace Demonstration. 2 p.m.; Poster Parade from Plumstead Central Hall. 3 p.m.; Open-air mtg. near Woolwich Arsenal. 5 p.m.; Peace Exhibition and Buffet. Central Hall followed by Any Questions session. Non-violent Resistance Group, Eltham PPU and PYAG.

### Sunday, July 4

GLASGOW: 8 p.m.; Queens Pk. Gate. Open-air mtg. PPU.

HYDE PARK: 6 p.m.; Pacific Youth Action speakers. Every Sunday. PYAG.

LONDON: W.11: 3.30 p.m.; Studio, Addison Ave. (Nr. Holland Pk. Stn.). Sufi Service. Discourse—Miss L. Hayat Bouman. PPU Religion Commission.

### Tuesday, July 6

MANCHESTER: 1-2 p.m.; Deansgate Bilal Site. Christian pacifist open-air mtg. Local Methodist ministers and others. MPF.

### Wednesday, July 7

LONDON: N.7: 7.30 p.m.; Co-operative Hall, 129 Seven Sisters Rd., Holloway. "CD and the H-bomb." Public Mtg. Coventry Councillor E. A. C. Roberts. Report on London's Civil Defence. Chair: Dr. A. D. Beldon.

NOTTINGHAM: 1.15 p.m.; Open-air mtg. Old Market Sq. Rev. Donald Pipe and others. For. PPU.

### Thursday, July 8

LEYTONSTONE: 8 p.m.; Friends Mtg. Ho., Bush Rd. Archie Donald. "Should Married Women Work?" PPU.

LONDON: W.C.1: 1.15-1.45 p.m.; Church of St. George the Martyr, Queen St. Weekly lunch-hour Service of Intercession for World Peace. Conducted by clergy and laymen of different denominations.

LONDON: W.C.1: 7.30 p.m.; Dick Sheppard Ho., 6 Endsleigh St. Meeting of Pacific Youth Action Group. Every Thursday. PYAG.

LONDON: W.C.2: 12.30 p.m.; Lincoln's Inn Fields. Open-air mtg. Sybil Morrison. PPU.

Send notices to arrive not later than Monday morning. Include: Date, TOWN, Time, Place (Hall, street), nature of event; speakers, organisers (and secretary's address) —preferably in that order and style.

### Saturday, July 10

BIRMINGHAM: 3-9 p.m.; Fircroft College. Oak Tree Lane, Bournville. Annual General Party. Mrs. Grace Knott. Bring and Buy Stall. Eric Smith's concert party. PPU.

LONDON: W.C.1: 3 p.m.; Dick Sheppard Ho., 6 Endsleigh St. Meeting of the Social Order Commission. "A Policy for the Peace Pledge Union." All interested invited. PPU.

LOUGHBOROUGH: 3.15 p.m.; Thorpe Community Centre. N. and E. Midlands Area Conference. Harold Bing. "The Third Way—a World Policy for Peace-Makers." PPU.

SOUTHEAST: 7.30 p.m.; Speakers' Corner, Southsea front. Open air mtg. "The answer to the H-bomb." Local speakers. PPU.

### Tuesday, July 13

LONDON: 7 p.m.; Kingsway Hall. Methodist Conference Public Mtg. Speakers: Dr. Donald O. Soper, MA.; Prof. Chas. A. Coulson, FR.S.; Rev. W. D. Stacey, MA.; Chair: Rev. David Francis, D.A. Subject: "Methodists Must Think Again." MPF.

### Thursday, July 15

LEYTONSTONE: 8 p.m.; Friends Mtg. Ho., Bush Rd. Councillor Marshall. "Public Health in Relation to Housing." PPU.

### Friday, July 16

YEovil: Members Mtg. 5.30 p.m.; Public Mtg. 7.30 p.m.; Junior Hall, Cong. Ch., Princes St. Chair: George Causser. Speaker: Canon C. F. Harman. "Facing the Challenge of the H-bomb and Communism." For.

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DISPLAYED ADVERTISEMENTS are required by the Thursday eight days prior to publication.

### MEETINGS

FEDERAL UNION, World Government, the only way to World Peace. How? Why? When? Speaker: Mr. Douglas Robinson (Secy. Federal Union), Tuesday, July 13, 8.30 p.m., Friends Meeting House, High Rd., Tottenham, N.17. Under auspices of International Friendship League.

INTERNATIONAL CLUB, Bath. Every Tuesday. 7.30 p.m. Royal Literary and Scientific Institute, 18 Queen Square, Bath. All welcome.

KING'S WEIGH House Church, Duke St., nr. Bond St. Tube. Sunday at 7 p.m. The Gospel of Peace. Rev. Cland M. Colman, MA., B.Litt.

MANCHESTER Peace March, Sunday, July 11. Slogans: Ban the H-bomb! No arms for Germany! End the Indo-China War! Assembly Ardwick Green at 2.30 p.m. March to Platt Fields for meeting at 3.30 p.m. Speaker: William Walwright (Secretary, British Peace Committee). Organised by Manchester and District Peace Committee (29 Moorland Rd., Manchester, 20).

MIRZA AHMAD SOHRAB, Director of The Caravan of East and West, speaks at Barn Hall, Southwick, Friday, July 9, 7 p.m. Reception at Waldorf Hotel, Sunday, July 11, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Details, s.a.e.—"Caravan", 14 Lamb Close, Edmonton, N.9. (TOTtenham 2522).

SOCIAL AND FILM SHOW. Saturday, July 3. See "Festival Ballet" and "New Heart of Warsaw." Enjoy folk and ballroom dancing, entertainments, refreshments, 81 Portland Pl., W.1. 2s. 7.30 p.m. British-Polish Friendship Society Dance Group.

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### LITERATURE

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# THE H-BOMB CAMPAIGN

that he disliked attending military talks on "careers." He had already attended one lecture by an RAF officer.

As a result of discussion in the class nearly half the boys expressed a wish not to attend the second lecture—and stayed away.

## Oxford students' petition

Students of Oxford University, 1,140 of them, have submitted a petition on the Hydrogen bomb to the House of Commons.

It was presented by the Member for Oxford, Mr. Lawrence Turner.

The Petition refers to the moral responsibility of Britain in her key position in world politics, and calls for a lead from her to avert the catastrophe of war. The Government is asked to make more vigorous efforts to secure disarmament, including the abolition of the hydrogen bomb and other weapons of mass destruction.

Margery Jones keeps the issue before students by selling Peace News at Union debates, while the Oxford Union Labour Club sees to the distribution of H-bomb leaflets.

## "Seventy-seven and on the sick list"

Many have expressed their support for the campaign by sending money to the Peace News Fund, like an old age pensioner at Earby, Lancs, "77 and on the sick list," who sent £1 1s. and "Regular Reader" of East Finchley who wrote:

"I was much encouraged by the wonderful demonstration by Donald Soper. It was something practical, and to be proud of."

## END CD IN LONDON

### \* From Page One

councillors, church leaders and newspaper editors have been visited.

Highlight of the campaign will be a public meeting at the Co-operative Hall, Seven Sisters Road, on Wednesday, July 7, when Councillor E. A. C. Roberts of Coventry will speak together with a recorded speech by Dr. Donald Soper who is supporting the campaign.

Dr. A. D. Belden, a pacifist, will take the chair and the CD officers for Islington will be invited to speak. Reports by group members of the various replies they received from CD officers from other parts of London will be given.

Those who would like to help in evening poster parades before July 7, please contact "A" Group, Room 10 20 Buckingham St., W.C.2. TRA 1519.

## Dr. SOPER

### □ From page one

he addressed from a lorry, that he could find no comfort in the thought that because poison gas was not used as planned for the last war, there would be no use for the hydrogen bomb.

Gas had not been used because it was found to be an inefficient weapon, whereas the hydrogen bomb was clearly most efficient. The only way to stop it being used, he said, was for the whole Christian Church to unite against it. Then the politicians would have to take notice.

But it was no good sitting back in church and leaving it to others to do the protesting. "I am sick of this 'after you, Claude' attitude of so many Christians," he declared.

Dr. Soper speaks in London on Tuesday, July 13, at 7 p.m., at a public meeting in Kingsway Hall organised by the Methodist Peace Fellowship, "Methodists Must Think Again."

## CIVIL DEFENCE AND YOU!

Co-op Hall, 129 Seven Sisters Rd., Holloway  
Public Meeting Wed. July 7th at 7.30 p.m.

Coventry Councillor E. A. C. Roberts

Recording by Dr. Donald Soper  
Report on London's CD Chair: Dr. A. D. Belden

## H-BOMB CAMPAIGN

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Five members of the Richmond (Surrey) group of the Peace Pledge Union turned out last Sunday for a poster parade through the streets of their town.

Starting from the station they walked in a circular route bearing posters calling for brotherhood to replace the methods of war.

On the way they gave out leaflets urging the banning of the hydrogen bomb and all weapons of war. The group reports itself so pleased with reaction to the parade that further ones are planned for the near future.

Newcastle Peace Pledge Union group arranged a meeting on the Town Moor in race week and made sure they had hundreds of leaflets for the occasion.

## "Please take one"

A Surrey Peace Pledge Union member has fixed an H-bomb poster on her fence and placed a small box by the poster to hold leaflets which passers-by are asked to take.

The Peace News supplement, "Civil Defence and the Hydrogen Bomb," now supplied separately is being ordered in large quantities. Several people have told Will Parkin, organising secretary who ordered 1,000 copies for Bristol Peace Council, that it is "a first rate piece of work."

Here are some of the towns and villages where distribution of the H-bomb, and CD leaflets is going on:

Aylesbury, Bedford, Birmingham, Brigg (Leics.); Bristol, Cardiff, Cambridge, Charlbury, Cheddar, Droitwich, Duns, Edenbridge.

Glasgow, Grimsby, Highgate, Hull, Hungerton, Kingsbridge, Leicester, Limsfield, Loughborough.

Portsmouth, Preston, Redruth, Rugby, Salisbury, Southsea, South Woodchester, Stroud, Welling, Whitstable.

## Distance no object!

In New Zealand, Peace News reader Dan Hansen was not deterred by the fact that it would take him weeks to receive leaflets from England.

Immediately he received his air-mail copy of the April 23, Peace News, with the headline "The Answer to the H-bomb" he had 1,000 photostat reproductions made of the front page and distributed them from door-to-door in Hamilton. Although slightly reduced in size every word was clearly readable.

## TWO MEN AND WAR

### 1. Gaol for trying to save 12,000 civilians

IN September, 1944, after the allied invasion of France, when the British were about to attack the town of Le Havre, the general commanding the German forces there asked for facilities to evacuate all the civilians. This request was refused despite the fact that the British attack was not timed to take place until three days later.

When the battle for Le Havre took place there were very few casualties among the troops, but the Press reported 12,000 civilians killed by the preliminary bombing by the Air Force.

William Douglas Home, who is the author of a number of successful plays, refers to this incident in his autobiography "Half Term Report" published by Longmans last week (15s.).

In the account given in his book it was this refusal to permit the evacuation of French civilians, men, women and children, that led to his refusal to obey orders in preparation for the attack and his consequent Court-Martial.

## "Up your street"

He records a conversation in the Headquarters Squadron Mess following a hint from an intelligence officer, who remarked:

"There's something happened up your street today."

"What's that?" I asked.

"The German General in Le Havre has asked to evacuate all the civilians."

"Good" said I.

"But we've refused to let him."

"Why?" I asked.

He shrugged. "Not time" he said.

"Not time" I cried. "The battle isn't for three days, is it?"

"No" said he. "That's why I said it was up your street."

Although the author gives this incident the primary place in bringing about his refusal to obey orders it was clear from the reports of this Court-Martial, and also from the earlier accounts of his attitude to the war given in his book that it was really only the occasion and that if the refusal had not occurred at Le Havre it would have been given on some other occasion.

Certainly in Mr. Home's statement before his Court-Martial it was the demand for unconditional surrender that had most disturbed him.

## War criminals

We need reminders, such as this reference to the Le Havre incident, of the extent to which a military disregard for human life can be carried, even when the lives are those, not of enemies, but of a people who are being liberated.

If the Germans, instead of the Allies had been sitting in judgment in trials for war criminality they would presumably have found no difficulty in framing an indictment based on the happenings at Le Havre.

This "half-term" narrative of Mr. Home's will appeal in the main to those who like gossip about life at public school and university, and the wider audience who like gossip about the theatre. So far as political comment is concerned, although readers of Peace News will find much to endorse in the author's attitude to various aspects of World War II, and they will admire his independence of

# The thorn of German rearmament

*I can understand those who object to the idea of a defence contribution by Western Germany. There are, first the pacifists who object to any arms anywhere. I cannot agree with them but I can respect them. Then there are the Communists who say nothing about arming Eastern Germany but are loud in protest against EDC. Then there are the reactionary forces in Germany who object to EDC because they want a freer hand for national forces... Then there are the people who have a perfectly genuine fear and dislike for anything that savours of giving arms to Germany... Would Britain, France, the other European peoples and America be willing to send men to defend Germany while the Germans did nothing?*

—Mr. Clement Attlee, June 26, 1954.

THE campaign to gain support within the ranks of the Labour Party for the rearmament of Germany has begun. Following upon the publication of "In Defence of Europe," Mr. Attlee came to the microphone last Saturday in a national broadcast upon this unresolved and controversial issue.

His survey of the differing objections to arming Germany show a sweeping disregard, as is usually the case in wide generalisations, for the underlying reasons for those various objections.



Pacifism is respected, but is brushed aside as, apparently, unworthy of any consideration at all; the fact that Russia may arm Eastern Germany simply because of the threat of EDC is not taken into account, and those who may desire a national army are classed as reactionaries. (If it is reactionary to wish for "national forces" the British Labour Party itself must stand indicted!)

There is complete failure, moreover, to examine the reasons for "fear and dislike" of giving arms to Germany, and yet that is the major stumbling block to nation-wide acceptance, because that fear is based not upon reason or logic, but upon emotionalism and sentimentalism.

"A feeling" is a much more difficult thing to change than an opinion, especially this particular feeling, which has been inculcated

and fostered over a period of some forty years. No mean length of time for indoctrination!

The incessant propaganda poured out over the years since 1914, designed to prove Germany's total blame for two world wars, has had its inevitable effect upon millions of ordinary citizens of this country.

To undo this is no easy task; to give the lie now to all the brave words of exhortation to sacrifice, to forget the tributes to "the glorious dead," who died, as it was sincerely believed, to ensure that Germany should never again have the means to fight another war, leaves a distinctly unpleasant impression of cynical ruthlessness.

There was strong support for the "unconditional surrender" policy, largely because it was so emphatically stated to be essential for the future total disarmament of Germany.

These are the people, and there are millions of them, people who lost their homes, their friends, their loved ones, men and women who lost their limbs, their eyesight and their health, because they believed in the guilt and the recurring threat of a military Germany, who retain this "fear and dislike," and it is deeply rooted.



To arouse a greater fear is Mr. Attlee's only hope of removing the thorn deliberately driven under the skin so long ago, and so he rhetorically demands whether Britain, France, America and other countries would be willing to defend Germany while the Germans did nothing.

To say this is to imply that an attack is pending, and it is on this false assumption that fear of Russian military aggression is being built up. It is more than likely that the Kremlin makes the same assumption about EDC and the H-bomb, and plays upon the fears of Russians in the same way.

These pacifists, whom Mr. Attlee respects but cannot agree with, are not concerned with feelings and fears, but with principles and practice. The peoples of the world have lived with fear for years, and that has done nothing but beget fear and more fear, arms and more arms. There is no possible end to that process than the sudden, overwhelming fear that brings the arms, without warning, crashing into action.

There is no answer to this dreadful fact than the pacifist answer. Arms must be renounced; they do not deter, and they carry with them today the downfall of civilization, the annihilation of the human race, and the destruction of the soul. It is time to throw away the sword lest, in every sense of the word, we perish.

J. A. S.

### 2. They made an example of Eddie

LIKE so many people for whom this hard world has not time to find understanding, Private Eddie Slovik of the 28th American Infantry Division could not stand alone. All he needed was someone who would clutch his hand and supply some of the strength he did not have.

Picture Post for June 19, tells his story.

As a lad he smoked when his pals smoked, he drank when his pals drank, and when his pals decided to steal he joined them—and was caught.

He served in a junior reformatory and in prison, and was found a job as a condition of parole through the help of the one strong hand he had, that of his sister.

Finding the job led him to his employer's daughter, to whom he wrote the most simple but moving letters of love, and she was certainly the strong supporting hand he sought. Eddie felt himself a man, he worked well, they were married and very happy. The war was going on around them, but Eddie was a physical weed declared unfit for military service.

But the war got worse, and war has no time for sentiment nor mercy for those who cannot stand alone. War pushes people into a hole and they have to get out for themselves.

## No longer a weed

The war department suddenly sent word to Eddie that he was no longer a weed but an A.I. citizen; he left his wife and baby-to-be and went to the war, was landed in France when destruction was at its height, pushed straight into battle and ordered to dig in.

He dug in, but when the party moved on Eddie stayed in his hole, then, finding himself alone, he ran. He had sworn he would never use his rifle and he did not. He just deserted, but he not only deserted, he declared his intention to go on deserting.

That was the only answer he knew to facing any difficult problem alone. Run away boy, it might be safer... that was Eddie all over—"a nice friendly, good hearted kid but weak as dish water—scared, insecure." So his reformatory chief wrote about him.

Well there is no place in war for kind hearted people if they are weak, and Eddie Slovik was charged with desertion and sentenced to death.


So were many other Americans and the strange thing is that in the USA since the civil war all such sentences have been commuted, until January 1945, when, after all

appeals had failed, it was decided that Eddie should die, because he not only deserted but knew himself so well that he had said he would go on deserting. With men dying all round an example had to be made.

The firing squad did not do its job very well. The Chaplain said to them "Give him another volley if you like it so much" but someone answered "Take it easy Padre, none of us is enjoying this." Fortunately the poor lad died before more shots were needed. He could not live alone but he died alone and the war machine moved on.

Of all its victims this helpless lad was singled out to be the only one from America or Britain to be shot for his weakness.

FRANK DAWTRY.



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